

## Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM  
SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS  
FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: GENEVA A-139, APRIL 19, 1978

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTOR VAN BOVEN INFORMED MISOFF THAT HE HAD CONTACTED THREE CONSULTANTS AND REQUESTED THEM TO PREPARE PAPERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER SEMINAR ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS. TWO OF THE THREE HAVE RESPONDED AND THEIR PAPERS ARE EXPECTED AT THE HRD OFFICES THE WEEK OF JUNE 19. THEY ARE: PROFESSOR JOHN HUMPHREY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY (CANADA) AND PROFESSOR SHARMA, UNIVERSITY OF KURUKSHETRA HARYANA (INDIA). VAN BOVEN JOKINGLY SAID THAT THE THIRD CONSULTANT, A SOVIET, HAD NOT CONFIRMED HIS PARTICIPATION AND NOBODY KNOWS WHEN OR IF HE WILL. THE SOVIET, A PROFESSOR KUDRYAVTZEV, IS DIRECTOR OF THE STATE AND LAW INSTITUTE OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR AT MOSCOW. COMMENT: JOHN HUMPHREY IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT HIM AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY TO SECURE AN ADVANCE OF HIS PAPER AND EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH HIM, AS IT

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MIGHT PROVE USEFUL IN PREPARING U.S. PRESENTATION FOR THE SEMINAR. END COMMENT.

2. IN DISCUSSING WHAT INITIATIVES COULD BE INTRODUCED AT THE SEMINAR, VAN BOVEN RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THE IDEA OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES LACKING THE EXPERTISE FOR ESTABLISHING HUMAN RIGHTS

INSTITUTIONS. HE NOTED THAT THIS CONCEPT IS COMPARABLE WITH THE PROGRAM OF ADVISORY SERVICES OF EXPERTS WHICH HAS, SO FAR, BEEN USED ONLY BY STATES INITIATING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS.

3. VAN BOVEN CONCURRED WITH MISSOFF THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD MIGHT BE RESISTED BY THE NONALIGNED. HE ALSO AGREED THAT MORE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD COULD SERVE TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF INTERNAL INTERFERENCE ON THIS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. IN THIS CONNECTION VAN BOVEN SAID THAT THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING A MEETING OR SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO DISCUSS VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. HE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH MEETINGS MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR INTRODUCING AND DISCUSSING ISSUES THAT SEPARATE THE WEST AND THE NONALIGNED, AS WELL AS A FORUM FOR PROMOTING NEW HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEPTS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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